

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ARA-10 IO-13 /089 W
-----090995 232000Z /23

R 231831Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8801
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, PINT, PEPR, XX, CU, GW
SUBJECT: FRG ATTENDANCE AT THE HAVANA FESTIVAL

REF: (A) BONN 8405
(B) USMISSION BERLIN 1152

1. DISCUSSION CONTINUES RE THE PLANNED PARTICIPATION
BY FRG YOUTH GROUPS IN THE XI WORLD FESTIVAL FOR
YOUTH AND STUDENTS, TO BE HELD IN HAVANA DURING JULY 28-
AUGUST 5, 1978. OF ALL MAJOR FRG PARTIES, ONLY THE SPD
HAS GIVEN DRAMATIC, BUT HARDLY MASSIVE, SUPPORT TO THIS
PARTICIPATION. EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE SPD NATIONAL
BUSINESS MANAGER, EGON BAHR, SENT A PUBLIC LETTER TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL YOUTH RING (DBJR),
EXPRESSING STRONG CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF FRG
YOUTH TO DEFEND THEIR VALUES, AND NOTING THAT ONE DOES
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NOT MEET COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA BY "DUCKING" IT. THE
FDP HAS KEPT A DISCREET PUBLIC SILENCE. THE OPPOSITION
CDU/CSU CONTINUES TO CRITICIZE THE HAVANA FESTIVAL AS
A ONE-SIDED COMMUNIST SHOW.

2. ON MAY 9, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FILED ITS REPLY
TO THE CDU/CSU'S BUNDESTAG QUERY ON THE FESTIVAL

(REF A). IN GENERAL, THE GOVERNMENT ARGUED AGAINST PASSING UP A CHANCE FOR MEETINGS BETWEEN FRG YOUTH AND YOUTH FUNCTIONARIES FROM COMMUNIST STATES, WHILE UNDERSCORING THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE HAVANA FESTIVAL IS A DECISION WHICH YOUTH GROUPS MAKE ON THEIR OWN.

A. IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THE GOVERNMENT NOTED THAT: DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS WILL HAVE "LIMITED CHANCES" TO INFLUENCE PREPARATION FOR, AND THE COURSE OF, THE HAVANA FESTIVAL; "FOR THE FIRST TIME" IN THE HISTORY OF THESE YOUTH FESTIVALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-COMMUNIST GROUPS (I.E., INTERNATIONAL YOUNG SOCIALISTS, BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL, AND EUROPEAN YOUTH COUNCIL) ARE TAKING PART IN THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION; THIS PARTICIPATION, TOGETHER WITH THE "CONSENSUS PRINCIPLE" OF OPERATION AND AGREED ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOURNALISTIC COVERAGE, AFFORD A CHANCE TO PRESENT ALTERNATIVES TO THE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA WHICH THE HAVANA FESTIVAL WILL PRODUCE.

B. ON THE MATTER OF FINANCING, THE GOVERNMENT REPLY STATED THAT THE NATIONAL YOUTH GROUPS MAY USE FEDERAL MONIES, WHICH THEY ALREADY OBTAIN THROUGH THE FEDERAL YOUTH PROGRAM FOR THEIR GENERAL ACTIVITIES, TO SEND DELEGATES TO HAVANA. THE BONN GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO, ON AN EXCEPTIONAL BASIS, AUTHORIZE USE OF AMOUNTS UP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DM 900.00 (I.E., ABOUT \$245.00) PER DELEGATE FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND WILL CONSIDER A MODEST HIKE IN TOTAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO YOUTH GROUPS WHICH PARTICIPATE

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IN HAVANA, IF ATTENDANCE AT THE FESTIVAL CAUSES THEIR
"OTHER NECESSARY PROGRAMS" TO SUFFER.

4. A WELL-PLACED CONTACT IN THE FRG YOUTH SCENE
RECENTLY TOLD US THAT THE CUBANS WILL HOUSE THE 4000-
ODD NON-COMMUNIST DELEGATES IN A CAMP WHICH IS 20 KILO-
METERS OUTSIDE HAVANA. THE FRG'S NON-COMMUNIST CO-
ORDINATING GROUP (KOG) HOPES TO IMPORT A FEW MOPEDS
SO THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVES CAN GET AROUND ON THE
ISLAND, BUT IT IS ALREADY PLAIN THAT THE GOC WILL SEEK
TO CLAMP A TIGHT CONTROL ON ALL CONTACT BETWEEN KOG
MEMBERS AND OTHERS AT THE FESTIVAL. THE KOG SUFFERED
ANOTHER LETDOWN ON THE MATTER OF PRESS COVERAGE.
EARLIER, IT HAD HOPED THAT ACCOMPANYING JOURNALISTS
FROM THE FRG COULD FILE DAILY DISPATCHES. HOWEVER,
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THE CUBANS PLAN TO GIVE COMMUNIST REPORTERS FIRST
CLAIM ON THE TWO LINES DEDICATED TO REPORTING ON THE
FESTIVAL. AS A RESULT, THE NON-COMMUNIST FRG PRESS
WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO POUCH ITS COPY.

5. THE 340 MEMBERS OF THE FRG DELEGATION HAVE NOW
BEEN DIVIDED UP AS FOLLOWS: 200 FOR THE NON-COMMUNIST
KOG, AND 140 FOR THE COMMUNIST-FRONT WORKING GROUP
FESTIVAL (AKF). THIS RATIO DOES NOT BY ANY MEANS
REFLECT THE ACTUAL STRENGTHS OF KOG AND AKF GROUPS IN
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. HOWEVER, AS ONE KOG
SOURCE TOLD US, "IT'S LARGELY THEIR--I.E., THE
COMMUNISTS'--FESTIVAL."
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